

**Utah Department of Human Services**  
**Fee Public Hearing Minutes**  
**Friday, September 2, 2016**  
**2:00 p.m.**  
**Room 1020C**

**Present:** Nathan Winters, Becky Stay, Stacey Galli, Diane Moore, Allie Jurkatis

**Welcome**

**Nathan Winters**

Meeting began at 2:00 p.m. Nathan welcomed all participants to the meeting. This meeting is being held due to the requirements of the fee statute that details having a public hearing as part of the requirements for submitting a fee request to the Governor's office.

The fees being discussed today are from the Office of Licensing: The Child Placing Adoption fee and the Child Placing Foster Care fee.

**Office of Licensing**

**Diane Moore, Office of Licensing Director**

Fee change requested: Child Placing Adoption fee. Fee clarification: Child Placing Foster Care fee.

Originally, the increase of Licensing fees was proposed by the Legislative Analyst's Office. The bulk of the fees from the Office of Licensing are heavily subsidized with state dollars. This is because there is a public benefit to subsidizing these Human Services organizations that we license. In 2015, the legislature looked at our fees and determined it was an appropriate time to increase them by 200%, which essentially tripled the fee for each license type. At the time, there was a distinct desire on the legislature's part, in our understanding, to protect the costs of foster care licensing. The legislature did not want to increase fees on the agencies that certify foster homes because they already had a difficult time recruiting and maintaining all the foster homes that are needed in the State. In addition, those agencies tend to serve primarily Department of Human Services (DHS) agencies, so it makes sense to subsidize the rate because it is considered a public service that serves primarily DHS. Increasing these fees would simply then require an increase to DHS contracts to help offset the increased cost, which does not make a lot of sense. Thus, child placing agencies were protected from the increase and did not increase 200%.

Currently, we have two separate licenses: Child placing adoption and child placing foster care. They are completely separate licenses with completely separate rules, enforcement, and oversight. Historically, they were called child placing fees. The intent to protect the child placing foster fees led to no one really discussing the child placing adoption fees, which were not necessarily meant to be protected in that same way. They do not directly serve DHS clients and the fees are primarily related to private adoption agencies. Because of the incongruity and to create fairness between child placing adoption agencies and all other similarly situated licenses that did experience an increase, we would request that child placing foster fees stay exactly as they are -- \$300 for the initial fee and \$250 for renewal. We also request that the child placing adoption fee be broken out as its own fee with a \$900 initial fee and a \$750 renewal fee. This increase would have occurred in 2015 had it been done at the time the legislature originally recommended the increase. It is important to note that these fees are meant to reflect the cost of doing business, and even with the increase, all of the Office of Licensing fees are still subsidized. These fees are fair to the public and reasonable. This would go into effect after July 1, 2017.

**Other**

No public comment was provided. Forms will be submitted to the Governor's office.

**Adjourn**

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.